

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01195 221553Z

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5135

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MAPUTO 1195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS IS SLIGHT. TRIPLE VETO OF UNSC RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA IS GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT.

2. RHODESIA. IN SHORT FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE, NOTICIAS OCTOBER 21 QUOTES ROBERT MUGABE AS SAYING "THE REFUSAL OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE SUGGESTION OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS TO ASSUME ITS FORMER RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE CONSTITUTED MORE PROOF OF THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO PLAY A ROLE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA'S INDEPENDENCE." MUGABE, WHO WAS SPEAKING IN LUSAKA, ALSO REITERATED HIS DEMAND THAT A BRITISH MINISTER CHAIR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, INTERVIEWED IN SALISBURY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA AS A MEMBER OF JOSHUA NKOMO'S DELEGATION, GARFIELD TODD SUGGESTED THAT IVOR RICHARD SHOULD BE REPLACED BY A MORE ILLUSTRIOUS BRITISH

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 01195 221553Z

OFFICIAL. TODD REPORTEDLY TOLD JOURNALIST THAT THE BRITISH OFFICIAL WHO PRESIDES OVER THE GENEVA CON-

REFERENCE "MUST BE" A MODERN VERSION OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN..
"A PERSON WHO HAS MADE A NAME IN GOVERNMENT ADMINIS-
TRATION, WHO IS FIRST RATE, WHO IS WELL KNOWN" AND
WHO HAS NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNAL RHODESIAN
POLITICS IN THE PAST.

3. NAMIBIA: SAME EDITION OF NOTICIAS CARRIES LONG
BACK PAGE ARTICLE ON TRIPLE VETO (BY US, UK AND FRANCE)
OF UNSC RESOLUTION ON MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA. IN JUSTIFYING THE U.S. VETO, GOVERNOR
SCRANTON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS" HAS BEEN MADE ON REACHING AN ACCORD ON
NAMIBIA AND THAT "IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THE DELICATE
STRUCTURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE DESTROYED BY ANY
HASTY ACTIONS." DRAWING ON CRITICISM OF THE VETO BY
TANZANIAN REPRESENTATIVE SALIM SALIM AND SWAPO
OFFICIAL THEO-BEN GURIRAB, NOTICIAS QUESTIONS WHETHER
ANY REAL PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA HAS BEEN MADE. CONCLUDING,
NOTICIAS QUOTES GURIRAB AS SAYING: "THE DECISION TO
VETO THE PROPOSAL SEEMS TO TRANSLATE INTO A FIRM
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THESE POWERS AND THE RACIST REGIME
OF VORSTER." DE PREE

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